

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Currently amended) Chewing gum comprising at least one biodegradable polymer and chewing gum ingredients,

said chewing gum ingredients ~~being chosen~~ selected from the groups consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients, fillers, and mixtures thereof, and

said chewing gum containing less than about 2.0 weight percent water of the chewing gum.

2. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum containing from about 0.01 to about 2.0 weight percent water of the chewing gum.

3. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said chewing gum containing less than 1.0 weight percent water of the chewing gum

4. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of the claims 1-3~~, wherein said chewing gum containing less than 0.75 weight percent water of the chewing gum

5. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-4~~, wherein said chewing gum containing less than 0.2 weight percent water of the chewing gum

6. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of the claims 1-5~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer is a polyester polymer obtained by the polymerization of one or more cyclic esters by ring-opening and where at least one of the cyclic esters are selected from the groups consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates ~~and~~ or mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of the claims 1-6~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer is a polyester copolymer obtained by the polymerization of two or more cyclic esters by ring-opening and where at least one of the cyclic esters are selected from the groups consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of the claims 1-7~~, wherein the rheological properties of the degradable polymer is controlled by adjusting the functional number of initiator.

9. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 7 ~~any of the claims 1-8~~, wherein the lactone monomers are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, and β -propiolactone, and mixtures thereof; and wherein ~~the - It also includes ϵ -caprolactones, δ -valerolactones, γ -butyrolactones, or β -propiolactones that have been~~ lactone monomers are optionally substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom and mixtures thereof.

10. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 7 ~~any of the claims 1-9~~, wherein the carbonate monomer is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6-dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, ~~and~~ 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

11. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of the claims 1-10~~, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of water containing sweeteners or softeners.

12. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of the claims 1-11~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one low hygroscopic softener or sweetener.

13. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of the claims 1-12~~, wherein the at least one low hygroscopic softeners or chewing gum comprises powdered ~~erithritol~~ erythritol.

14. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1-13, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise flavoring agents.

15. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims 1-13~~ claim 14, wherein said flavoring agents comprises natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids or ~~and~~ other substances capable of affecting the taste profile

16. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 14-15, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

17. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 14 ~~any of claims 1-16~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

18. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 14 ~~any of claims 1-17~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water soluble ingredients.

19. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of claims 1-18~~, wherein said water soluble flavoring agent comprises acids.

20. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 14 ~~any of claims 1-19~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water insoluble ingredients.

21. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-20~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprising sweeteners.

22. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 21 ~~any of claims 1-21~~, wherein said sweetener comprises bulk sweeteners

23. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 22 ~~any of claims 1-22~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in the amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 20 to about 80% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

24. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 21 ~~any of claims 1-23~~, wherein said sweetener comprises high intensity sweeteners.

25. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 1-24~~, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprises sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, sterioside, alone or in combination.

26. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 1-25~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in an amount of about 0 to about 1% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0.05 to about 0.5 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

27. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-26~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.

28. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of claims 1-27~~, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, - ~~such as stearic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, and linoleic acids, waxes, poly glycol esters, PGE and or mixtures thereof.~~

29. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 27 ~~any of claims 1-28~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in the amount of about 0 to about 18% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0 to about 12 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

30. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-29~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise active ingredients.

31. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 30 ~~any of claims 1–30~~, said active ingredients ~~being~~ selected from the group consisting of: Acetaminophen, ~~Acetylsalicylsyre~~ Acetylsalicylic acid, Buprenorphine, Bromhexin, Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin, Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Oxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam, ~~Pseudoefedrin~~, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecocixib, Calciumcarbonat, Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Granisetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin, Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, Ieco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine, Chlorpheniramin, Chlorpheniramin, Difenhydramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin, Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine, Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon. Chloride, Benzeth. Chloride, Cetylpyrid. Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol, Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea, Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide, Rosiglitazone, Apomorfin, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate, Simethicone, Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetrizin, Loratadine, Aspirin, Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc., Phenolphthalein, Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan, Aluminium salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte, Amphotericin B, Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetoneid, Melatonin, Phenobarbitol, Caffeine, Benzodiazepiner, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine, Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate, Buflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephedrine, Phenylpropanolamin, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramin, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin, Nystatin, Progesterone, Testosterone, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminiumaminoacetat, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine, Lansoprazole, Magnesiumoxide, Nizatide and/or Ratinidine or derivates and mixtures thereof.

32. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-31~~, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers

33. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of claims 1-32~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer is a polyester polymer obtained by the polymerization of at least two or more cyclic esters ~~are~~ selected from the groups consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates and ~~or~~ mixtures thereof.

34. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim ~~any of claims 1-33~~, wherein lactone monomers are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, ~~and~~ β -propiolactone, and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactone monomers are optionally. ~~It also includes ϵ -caprolactones, δ -valerolactones, γ -butyrolactones, or β -propiolactones that have been~~ substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.

35. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 33 ~~any of claims 1-34~~, wherein the carbonate monomer is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6-dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, ~~and~~ 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

36. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 6 ~~any of claims 1–35~~, wherein ~~eye~~^{the} polyester polymers and their copolymers resulting from the polymerization of cyclic ester monomers ~~include, but are not limited to~~ are selected from the group consisting of: poly (L-lactide) ; poly (D-lactide) ; poly (D, L-lactide) ; poly (mesolactide) ; poly (glycolide) ; poly (trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (epsilon-caprolactone) ;

poly (L-lactide-co-D, L-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide co-glycolide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (L-lactide co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (D, L lactide-co-glycolide) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (meso-lactide-co glycolide) ; poly (meso-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (meso lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (glycolide-cotrimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); and mixtures thereof.

37. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1–36~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

38. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 37 ~~any of claims 1–37~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of about 0 to about 50% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 10 to about 40 % by weight of the chewing gum~~.

39. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1–38~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.:-

40. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1–39~~, wherein the chewing gum is coated with an outer coating.

41. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 40 ~~any of claims 1-40~~, wherein the outer coating is a hard coating.
42. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 41 ~~any of claims 1-41~~, wherein the hard coating is a coating selected from the group consisting of a sugar coating and a sugarless coating and a combination thereof.
43. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 41 ~~any of claims 1-42~~, wherein the hard coating comprises 50 to 100% by weight of a polyol selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, maltitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, lactitol and isomalt.
44. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 40 ~~any of claims 1-43~~, wherein the outer coating is an edible film comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of an edible film-forming agent and a wax.
45. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 44 ~~any of claims 1-44~~, wherein the film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a cellulose derivative, a modified starch, a dextrin, gelatine, shellac, gum arabic, zein, a vegetable gum, a synthetic polymer and any combination thereof.
46. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 40 ~~any of claims 1-45~~, wherein the outer coating comprises at least one additive component selected from the group consisting of a binding agent, a moisture absorbing component, a film forming agent, a dispersing agent, an antisticking component, a bulking agent, a flavouring agent, a colouring agent, a pharmaceutically or cosmetically active component, a lipid component, a wax component, a sugar, an acid and an agent capable of accelerating the after-chewing degradation of the degradable polymer.
47. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 40 ~~any of claims 1-46~~, wherein the outer coating is a soft coating.

48. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 47 ~~any of claims 1-47~~, wherein the soft coating comprises a sugar free coating agent.

49. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-48~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises conventional chewing gum polymers or resins.

50. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-49~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least 5% of the chewing gum polymers.

51. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-50~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprises at least 25%, ~~preferably at least 50%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

52. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-51~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprises at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 90%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

53. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-52~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming a plasticizer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional elastomer.

54. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-53~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming an elastomer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional natural or synthetic resin.

55. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-54~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum,

at least one biodegradable plasticizer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and

at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the groups consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.

56. (Canceled)